

1 3.3 AIR QUALITY

AIR QUALITY – Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2 3.3.1 Environmental Setting

3 The Project area is located 2 miles east-northeast of Niland, Imperial County, in the
 4 central basin of the Colorado Desert within the Salton Trough (Salton Sink). Niland is a
 5 small community on the southeast side of the Salton Sea, approximately 80 miles
 6 southeast of Palm Springs and 19 miles north of Brawley. The region is hot and dry and
 7 consists of low valleys surrounded by high mountains. The average annual rainfall and
 8 temperature vary with elevation. Winters are windier than in the summer. The Project
 9 would result in the transfer of ownership of smaller parcels partitioned from a 640-acre
 10 parcel of School Lands to private entities. Current activities on the transferred parcels
 11 would not change (no new construction or facility operations are proposed) and the sites
 12 would not be physically affected by the transfer of title and ownership. The proposed
 13 purchasers of the School Lands parcels plan to continue the existing uses (current
 14 baseline conditions) associated with the respective parcels. Any other uses and
 15 potential impacts are too speculative for evaluation.

16 3.3.2 Regulatory Setting

17 Federal and State laws and regulations pertaining to this issue area and relevant to the
 18 Project are identified in Table 3.3-1.

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Table 3.3-1. Laws, Regulations, and Policies (Air Quality)

U.S.	Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA) (42 USC 7401 et seq.)	<p>The FCAA requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to identify National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to protect public health and welfare. National standards are established for ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), and lead (Pb). In 2007, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that carbon dioxide (CO₂) is an air pollutant as defined under the FCAA, and that the USEPA has authority to regulate GHG emissions. Pursuant to the 1990 FCAA Amendments, USEPA classifies air basins (or portions thereof) as in “attainment” or “nonattainment” for each criteria air pollutant, based on whether or not the NAAQS are achieved. The classification is determined by comparing monitoring data with State and Federal standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An area is classified as in “attainment” for a pollutant if the pollutant concentration is lower than the standard. • An area is classified as in “nonattainment” for a pollutant if the pollutant concentration exceeds the standard. • An area is designated “unclassified” for a pollutant if there are not enough data available for comparisons.
CA	California Clean Air Act of 1988 (CCAA) (Assembly Bill [AB] 2595)	<p>The CCAA requires all air districts in the State to endeavor to achieve and maintain State ambient air quality standards for O₃, CO, SO₂, NO₂, and PM; attainment plans for areas that did not demonstrate attainment of State standards until after 1997 must specify emission reduction strategies and meet milestones to implement emission controls and achieve more healthful air quality. The 1992 CCAA Amendments divide O₃ nonattainment areas into four categories of pollutant levels (moderate, serious, severe, and extreme) to which progressively more stringent requirements apply. State ambient air standards are generally stricter than national standards for the same pollutants; California also has standards for sulfates, hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), vinyl chloride, and visibility-reducing particles.</p>

2 At the local level, the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD) under the
3 authority of the County Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO) implements County Rules
4 and Regulations pursuant to section 115 of the definitions and applicable sections of the
5 California Health and Safety Code and Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations, as
6 well as the Federal Clean Air Act and its implementing regulations (ICAPCD 2015).
7 Rules and Regulations identified in section 115 that pertain to Imperial County include:

- 8 A. All sections contained in the California Health and Safety Code relating to Air
9 Pollution Control shall have application in the ICAPCD unless superseded by
10 more stringent provisions in these rules and regulations.
- 11 B. The APCO shall enforce those applicable Health and Safety Code regulations in
12 the same manner as if they were set forth in these regulations.
- 13 C. Permits issued by the ICAPCD shall include language requiring compliance with
14 all applicable air pollution control regulations of state, federal, and local agencies.
15 Air emission or performance standards of state or federal agencies may be
16 required in connection with permits issued. Violation of such regulations or
17 required standards shall be considered as a violation of conditions of the permit.
- 18 D. The incorporation of, or reference to, regulations of other governmental agencies
19 by the ICAPCD is not meant to interfere in any way with the procedures or

enforcement activities of these other agencies. No applicant, or any other Person, is relieved of any obligation to comply with the regulations of other governmental agencies, by the incorporation of, or reference to, any other agency's regulations.

E. The APCO shall insure that applicants for permits, and other interested Persons, are made aware of the existence of air pollution control regulations of other agencies. The APCO may prepare summaries of such regulations and make them available at a reasonable cost.

3.3.3 Impact Analysis

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

No Impact. The Project will not:

- conflict with or obstruct implementation of any applicable air quality plans;
- violate any air quality standard;
- contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation;
- result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant;
- expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; or
- create objectionable odors.

The Project would result in the transfer of ownership of smaller parcels partitioned from a 640-acre parcel of School Lands to private entities. Current activities on the parcels would not change (no new construction or facility operations are proposed) and the sites would not be physically affected by the transfer of title and ownership.

3.3.4 Summary

Based upon the above considerations, no impacts to air quality are expected to occur as a result of the proposed sale of School Lands.